

REMARKS

Claims 1-71 were examined. Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11, 20, 39-42, 45 and 65 are amended. Claims 5, 7, 10, 13-18, 21-24, 43-44, 46-49, 60-64 are canceled and are replaced with new claims 72-95. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims and canceled claims in a continuation or continuation-in-part patent application. No new matter has been added thereby. Examination and reconsideration of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 65-71 are allowed and that claims 10-18 and claims 46-49 would be allowed if amended into independent form. In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 10 and independent claim 39 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 46. Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 39 should be allowable.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-12, 19-20, and 25-38 (which depend from amended independent claim 1) and dependent claims 40-42, 45, and 50-59 (which depend from amended independent claim 39) should be allowable at least for depending from allowable independent claims 1 and 39.

New Claims

Allowable dependent claims 13, 16, 17, 18, 47, 48, and 49 have been canceled, and the subject matter from such claims have been put into new independent claims 72, 76, 80, 84, 88, 91, and 94, respectively. Since the Examiner has indicated that such subject matter is allowable, all of the new independent claims should be allowed.

Applicants have also added dependent claims 73-75, 77-79, 81-83, 85-87, 89-90, 91-92, and 95 which depend from the new allowable independent claims and should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

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